

CLOUD PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A BALLOON.

THE two photographs which accompany this short note were taken during a balloon trip commencing at Battersea and terminating at Hadlow,

mountains or of the sea with snow-capped hills for the coast-line.

If one regarded this fine panorama in the same azimuth as the sun, the effect of contrast was most striking. The billowy cumuli were outlined in brilliant white, while the portions turned towards one were of intense blackness, and afforded a fine background for the sunbeams passing over the cloud tops. In other directions the cloudscape exhibited beautifully soft effects.

The first of the two photographs here shown (Fig. 1) was taken at 1h. 33m. p.m., when the balloon was nearly over Crookham, at an altitude of 5800 feet, or a little more than a mile high. The camera was directed nearly horizontally, and the balloon was only about 800 feet above the cloud tops. In this, one can observe the sea-like nature of the stratus cloud, bordered by the tops of the cumulus clouds, suggesting an Arctic scene.

The second photograph (Fig. 2) was taken later, at 1h. 50m. p.m., at an altitude of 6700 feet, or about a mile and a quarter. The balloon was then over the neighbourhood of Claydene, and the camera was

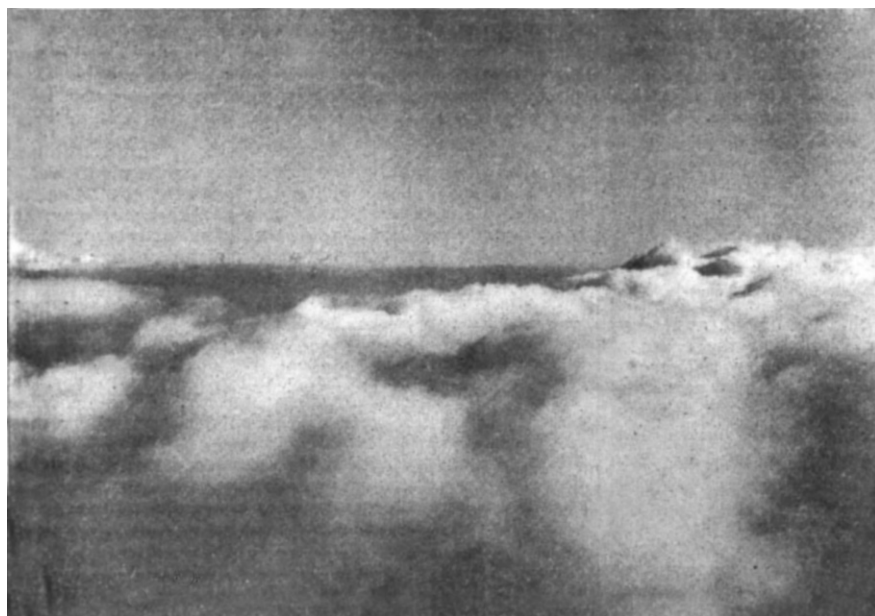


FIG. 1.—Cloud scenery from balloon at an elevation of 5800 feet. Photographed by Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer.

near Buxted, in Surrey, on February 6 of the present year.

Leaving the ground at 12h. 24m. p.m., the wind, or what there was of it, gradually took the balloon away in a direction a little east of south. There were thick, heavy cumulus clouds hanging over London at the time, and between them one beheld the sea of houses below. At 1h. 3m. p.m., at an altitude of 4000 feet, we became fairly enveloped in one of these clouds, and some minutes later, at an altitude of 5200 feet, we emerged from its top out into the brilliant sunshine. The heat of the sun acting on the gas in the envelope gradually expanded it, and we rose to our greatest altitude of the day—namely, 7300 feet, or about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, reaching this elevation at 2h. 12m. p.m.

From the time the balloon was above the clouds the panorama was a glorious one to behold. The billowy tops of the cumuli stood out as white as snow in the sunshine.

In the interspaces between the cloud masses there was present thin stratus cloud, which sometimes gave the appearance of lakes between snow-capped

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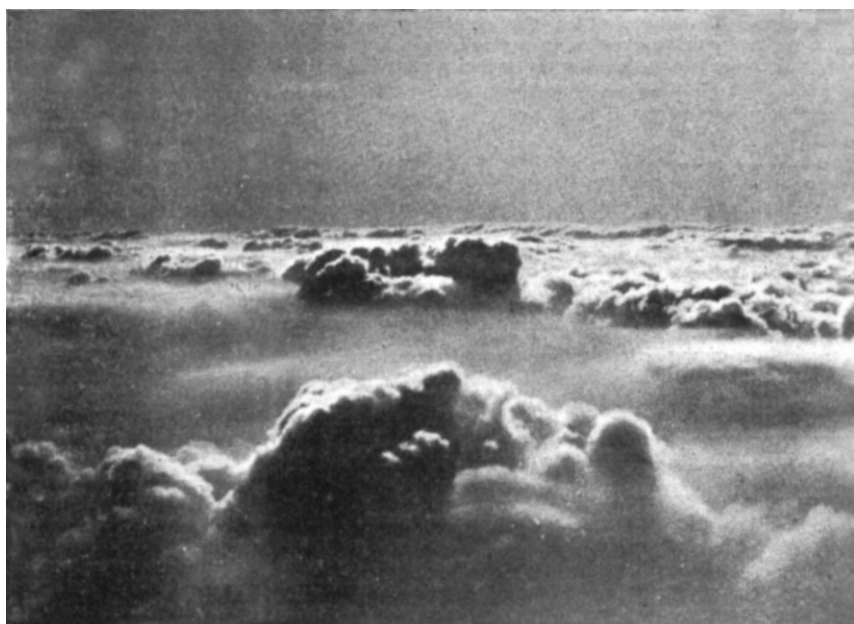


FIG. 2.—Cloud scenery from balloon at an elevation of 6700 feet. Photographed by Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer.

pointed slightly down from the horizontal and in the same azimuth as the sun. This photograph shows the great expanse of the billowy cloud tops and

the bold contrast of the scenery, but the picture conveys only a general idea of the beauty of the scene.

After another interesting hour among the clouds, a gentle descent was made to earth at Hadlow Down, the trip lasting 2 hours 26 minutes. To escape, even for a brief interval of a few hours, from the turmoil of London, and to be, in the space of a few minutes, amongst such magnificent scenery as the view above the clouds affords, is one of the greatest fascinations of ballooning, even if one has to be carried where the wind wills.

WILLIAM J. S. LOCKYER.

THE REFORM OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

BEFORE entering upon any discussion of the scheme presented by the Chancellor to the University of Oxford, and of the consequent action taken by the Hebdomadal Council, it is important to make a few introductory remarks on the conditions under which the effort for reform from within is about to be made.

In the first place, there is no question or debate about the inestimable value of collegiate residence. On this point all in Oxford, and it may be hoped all outside it, are agreed. Secondly, the strongest difference of opinion on questions of university policy exists, as it has existed in the past at Oxford, without the least personal feeling. It is useless to attempt to conceal the fact that under the existing system there is and must be conflict between the interests of the university and the colleges, but those who take the strongest line on the one side will be among the first to admit, nay, to proclaim, the devotion and self-sacrifice which are brought to the support of the other. In many cases, indeed, a university policy is most firmly sustained by men whose interests are bound up with the colleges. The question is what is best for Oxford, and through Oxford for the Empire, and to hold a strong opinion in such a controversy does not weaken a loyal and sympathetic cooperation with those who maintain the opposite position.

The point of view which will be maintained in the present article, and from which the Chancellor's book and the resolutions of Council will be examined, is that of the university as opposed to the colleges. We maintain that Oxford will gain as a seat of research and learning and in its influence—already beneficial in the highest degree—on the lives of its students by restoring to the university much of its ancient power and authority, and by leaving the colleges as dignified and historic homes, where, if teaching is carried on at all, it will be under the control of the university.

The first series of resolutions deals with the three governing bodies of the university—Convocation (M.A.'s who retain their names on university and college books), Congregation (such M.A.'s residing within a mile and a half of the centre of Oxford), and the Hebdomadal Council. This latter important body, by which alone legislation can be initiated in Congregation and Convocation, consists of three *ex-officio* members, the Vice-Chancellor and the two Proctors, and eighteen members elected by Congregation. Of these eighteen, six must be heads of colleges, six professors, and six M.A.'s. The power of Council will be best understood by the statement that, except on its initiative, no modification can be made in the existing examination system, no expenditure of a sum exceeding 100*l.*; no loan to a reader of book or manuscript out of the Bodleian Library.

It is impossible in the brief compass of a single article to do more than sketch the broadest outlines, but it is submitted that details here necessarily omitted do not substantially modify the accuracy of the pic-

ture suggested to the reader. Thus Congregation includes, but is not substantially affected by including, a complex list of *ex-officio* members; the Chancellor is a member of Council, but is very rarely present; the Bodleian has the power of lending to the Radcliffe Library, and consequently to the readers of the latter.

Lord Curzon proposes that the three categories of Council should be given up, and Council itself has resolved so far as possible "to abolish or modify the existing division into three orders." There is no doubt that the power of the university would be seriously weakened by the abolition of the professorial category unless provision be made for university representation of some other kind. The heads are collegiate appointments, for even at Christ Church, the headship of which is in the gift of the Crown, it is customary to select a Dean from the governing body. In addition to the power given to the colleges by the presence of the six heads on Council, it should be remembered that the Vice-Chancellor must, under the present constitution, be the head of a college. The Oxford of an older day, with its greater leisure and greater freedom, gave to the colleges heads almost invariably picturesque and sometimes inspiring. In an organisation mainly developed with reference to the rush and tumble of the modern race for first-classes between the colleges, the headship of the future will generally be, if not the retiring pension, at least the pension of a retiring tutor or bursar. If it be impossible to modify this system, an effort should be made to render the income of the position more commensurate with its duties. A small increase of stipend would amply compensate for the loss of much drudgery and an acceptance of the dignified and not exacting position of chairman. In these circumstances, too, it would be beneficial to abolish the category of heads in Council and the custom of necessarily selecting the Vice-Chancellor from among the heads. For ourselves, however, we should greatly prefer to leave the emoluments and the university status of the heads unchanged, but to give the university a voice in their appointment. Among the headships are some of the few fairly well paid posts in Oxford, and it would be an immense gain to the university, and an even greater gain to the colleges, if it were generally understood that they should be filled by men for whom leisure and opportunity, and the release after long service from teaching, would mean more time spent and greater efforts made in the cause of learning.

The two Proctors, popularly supposed to be mainly concerned with the behaviour of undergraduates outside their college walls, are in reality the representatives of the M.A.'s, and in this capacity hold their *ex-officio* seats on Council as well as on nearly all the important boards of the university. Lord Curzon's proposal that they should serve for two years, and go out of office in rotation, would undoubtedly facilitate business, but is open to criticism for the following reason. The educating effect of a proctorship is remarkable. It is an important advantage that every year a member of the governing body of two colleges should learn by personal experience that the University of Oxford is something more than a name. The Proctors certainly do learn this lesson, and a man who has held the office, although only for one year, looks on his university with different eyes. We should seriously question the wisdom of reducing the number of those who receive so illuminating an experience. The principle of Lord Curzon's proposal would be carried into effect and its main advantages secured by rotation with a half-yearly period.

That Congregation should be restricted to those